



April 4, 2023



Restoration Business

My grandfather was the type of guy that could fix anything. Even if something seemed impossible, he could usually find the solution if he had enough time to think about it or process it. So, when he moved into

retirement, he and a friend from church created a restoration business. Most jobs they did were when a company hired to do something had only made the problem worse. Word got out that my grandfather and his friend were good at coming in and cleaning up other people's messes. Often, they had so many jobs going on at once that they needed an extra set of hands.

So, in high school, I served as those extra sets of hands after my extracurricular activities and especially during the summer. The work included scrapping paint, tearing off poorly adhered roof singles and removing drywall. I did a lot of the deconstruction/demolition work.

On one scorching summer day, I was frustrated and voiced my frustration to my grandfather. I asked him if we could do fun projects, to start from scratch and build something new instead of always starting with the mess first.

God bless my grandfather. He patiently explained to his granddaughter that this was not what he specialized in. He was in the restoration business. And in the restoration business, it was our responsibility to take what was messed up, warped, or broken, and figure out how to salvage the project. Hopefully, we could make something work again, or possibly it could be stronger.

He admitted it wasn't fun work, and it would have been easier to walk away from the challenging jobs to do something new; start from scratch. He was often called when others had walked off the job and

Prayer list for April 9-15, 2023

Church & Pastors

-Pana United in
Faith Church,
Rev. Leon (Kay) Goff (right)



Eisele (left)

-Pinckneyville
St. Paul UCC,
Rev. Jason
(Petrice)

Retired Pastors

-Rev. Jean Carmean, O'Fallon,
IL

People with Life Concerns

-We pray for the families of those who were killed in the latest school shooting. Let there be peace and healing for those in pain from their losses.

-Please pray for **Rev. P. Jerry Bennett** as he recovers from surgery. Rev. Bennett is the Pastor and Teacher at Hookdale St. Peter's UCC. Cards may be sent to him at PO Box 39, Highland, IL 62249.

-Keep the **mother of Pastor Norma Patterson** in your prayers as she struggles with health issues. Pastor Norma Patterson is the Pastor and Teacher for East St. Louis Good Shepherd of Faith and has served on several teams for ISC. Cards may be sent to Norma at 5310 DePaul Drive, PO Box 4235, Fairview Heights, IL 62008.

left a mess for others to clean up. He told me he saw the value of being part of the "clean-up crew" that didn't just throw away materials that could be reused or used in a new way.

I had thought about that conversation for years. I was reminded of it just this past week as I thought about the brokenness of the world. Yet, the state of brokenness in the world, in humanity, is not new. Rather, in each age, in each generation, it is the result of humanity's choices. However, regardless of how many times humanity seems to mess things up, God never leaves us. Why? Because our Creator is in the restoration business.

Restoration is the action of returning something to a former owner, place, or condition. Through Jesus Christ, God seeks to restore us to the One to whom we belong, to our original place and condition as God's beloved. The entire Biblical narrative is about the restoring work of God.

God creates humanity. Humanity messes up by breaking the covenant, breaking relationships with God, others, and themselves. Yet, God is about the restoration work.

God sent his son Jesus to show us that nothing, not even death, can separate us from God. God sent his son Jesus to show us that God is a God of second (or really endless) chances. God can bring life out of what we think are hopeless situations. God is willing to do the restoration work in our lives if we allow God in. The resurrection is the embodiment of God's restoration work through Jesus Christ.

Dear Friends, hear and believe the Good News. Nothing is impossible unless we give up and do not give our messiness and brokenness over to the Creator and Restorer of all things. In this Holy Week and Easter season, may we remember and celebrate that the One who Created us and to whom we belong...mind, body and soul...is always seeking to restore us through the redeeming work of Jesus Christ.

Blessings, Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister

-Please pray for **Rev. Ken (Jean) Knobloch** as he recovers from surgery. Rev. Knobloch served Irvington Friedens UCC and Red Bud St. Peter UCC before retiring, as well as serving on several ISC teams/committees. Cards can be sent to 1518 Mill St, PO Box 76, Maestown, IL 62256.

-Please hold **Rev. Jim & Lelynna Langdoc** in your prayers as Lelynna improves with her battle with memory loss. Good news...Jim reported that he is still in remission. Cards can be sent to them at 16640 Cagan Orchard #122, Clermont, FL 34714.

Borrowing "Godly Play" Materials

Does anyone use "Godly Play" in their Christian Education program or know of another church that does? Bette Rotert from Belleville St. Paul UCC would like to borrow a story basket to demonstrate the concept to her Christian Education committee at St. Paul UCC in Belleville. Please contact her at Bette Rotert at 847-744-8371 or kqbrot@sbcglobal.net.

2023 Hunger and Health Illinois Regional Conference!

Registration is **NOW OPEN**

University of Illinois Extension and SNAP Education staff are excited to announce the second Hunger and Health Illinois conference held on May 5, at the Salvation Army in Springfield, IL from 10 am - 3 pm. Informational booths will provide opportunity for attendees to learn about SNAP-Ed resources, food pantry set-up, [Find Food IL](#) food locator map, and more. Participants will also select two breakout sessions to attend during the workshop.

Topics include the Healthy Donation Initiatives, Find Food Funds, Supporting Wellness at Pantries (SWAP), and Trauma and Food. The conference will conclude with a keynote speaker and will have awards presentations for Illinois food pantry champions in these categories: Exceptional Food Pantry Manager, Healthy Pantry Innovations, Outstanding Health Equity Leader, and Volunteer of the Year. The cost for the event is \$10 per person and a noon meal will be provided. Fee waivers are available. For questions regarding the conference, contact Louise Hyneman at lhyneman@illinois.edu. Register [here](#).

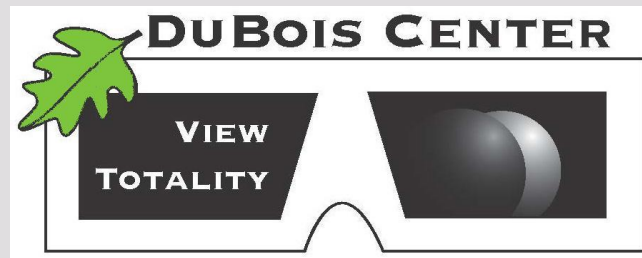
Young Adults, 2023 Leadership Immersion Opportunities

UCC has new leadership immersion opportunities for young adults in 2023. Click [here](#) for a list.

2023 Volunteer Work Trips

UCC Ministry Opportunities has work trips available. Check it out [here](#).

**Imagine being in the perfect place
for an astronomical wonder.....again!**



**SAVE THE DATE
April 8th, 2024
GREAT NORTH AMERICAN ECLIPSE**

DuBois Center News

Join us for our spring **Camp Cleanup Day on Saturday, April 29th!** There will be tasks for all ages and abilities AND lunch will be provided. Click [here](#) to fill out the volunteer form.



Join the new monthly DuBois Center Newsletter to stay up to date on the latest DuBois Center news, events, and musings. Different than the Weekly Connection, the DuBois Center Newsletter will include a message from the Director, upcoming schedule, news about DuBois 6.0 projects, and sneak peaks for the summer camp season. [Click here to subscribe now!](#)



Region 2 Bunco Night for DuBois Center

On **Fri, April 14** at **New Hanover Zoar UCC** in **Columbia**, **Region 2** will host a **Bunco Night**. **Doors open at 6:30 pm** and **play begins at 7 pm**. All proceeds benefit DuBois

Center. \$10 per person. Seating is limited. Snacks and beverages will be available. Silent auction. Attendance prizes. Contact Nancy Prather at 618-972-8559 or prthr73@yahoo.com.



Women's Retreat - April 21-23 - Back again for 2023, this retreat was created just for women ages 20 and over at DuBois Center. Relax and unwind with activities like yoga, nature walks, and spiritual time. This retreat is all about relaxing, getting away from everyday life, and meeting new friends. With an adults-only theme, this is the perfect time to get away and enjoy a stress-free weekend!

BONUS: This weekend will also feature yoga from one of our talented former staff members and massages from two of our most dedicated volunteers! Just two more reasons to get away for the weekend! For full details, pricing, and registration for all events, please visit us online! As always, be sure to continue to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), [TikTok](#), and www.DuBoisCenter.org for pictures, updates, videos, and stories!

Horse Retreat - April 15-16 - Another crowd favorite returns! This weekend is just like our summer horse camp, but with more time with and on the horses! Also, who said you could only **ride** horses? We'll have activities like horse apple bobbing, campfire cookouts with your horse, confecting horse treats, a barn party, and many more horse games. Designed for participants ages 12 and over who love horses, this could very well be the highlight of your spring!



CHHSM News
Council for Health and Human Service Ministries

Nollau Leadership Institute is Open for the 2023-24 Class

The [Nollau Leadership](#)

[Institute](#) is CHHSM's signature program with more than 250 attendees in its 20+ years. Enrollment is open and the short online application can be found [here](#). Registration closes on Friday April 28th.

Grounded in the health and human service organizations of the United Church of Christ, this program offers a unique space in which to experience leadership formation. Each year, Nollau brings together a community of leaders committed to creating a just, caring, and compassionate world. Such values deepen during the program, as participants grow in their leadership skills from a place of belonging. Cultivating this connection between others, the world, and within themselves is the heart of the Nollau experience.

Through retreats, online interactions, and peer mentoring, this program supports leadership formation through a variety of learning modalities and within a community of practice. The use of rituals, art, poetry, embodiment, and time to simply be in nature are all part of the program—alongside the interactive didactic sessions. Guided by CHHSM's commitment to issues of Race, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice, leadership will be examined and practiced through the lenses of anti-oppression and social justice. You can learn more about the curriculum [here](#).

The program consists of two in-person retreats at [Bellwether Farm](#), online interactions in between the retreats, and an additional day of programming at the CHHSM 86th Annual

Gathering, which concludes by commissioning the class as [Diakonal Ministers](#). Click [here](#) for more info and to register.

2023-34 Schedule:

1st Retreat: May 22-26, 2023 2nd Retreat: Oct. 2-6, 2023

Annual Gathering: March 11-14, 2024

Hoyleton Youth & Family Services to Benefit

Marine UCC will host a Trivia Night on April 29 beginning at 7 pm.(Doors open at 6:30 pm.) Prizes will be given to the 1st and 2nd place teams. Door prizes. Proceeds go to **Hoyleton Youth & Family Services** to support their mission in our communities. Cost is \$12 per person with up to 8 people to a table. To register, call 618-887-4465. If calling after hours, leave your name and number of people attending.



**EARLY CHILDHOOD
AFTER SCHOOL
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
ENRICHMENT CAMPS**

*Formerly
Neighborhood
Houses*

SAVE THE DATE

Come support **Unleashing Potential** as we host our annual trivia night **April 22 at the Sunset Hills Community Center, 3915 S. Lindbergh in Sunset Hills, Mo.** If you are interested in a table, register at <https://bit.ly/3IRoHu3>.

Hike, Bike & Run for Hoyleton Youth & Family Services - You may choose between **5K & Half-Marathon OR 5 Mile Hike/Bike on May 13**. The 5K & Half-Marathon begins at 8:30 am and the 5 Mile Hike/Bike goes from 9 am - 11 am. Both courses begin and end at Maeystown St. John UCC. T-shirt & mile-marker sponsorships are available. For more information or to register, click [here](#). 5K \$35; 5 Mile Hike/Bike \$30; 1/2 Marathon \$60; T-shirt only \$20. Event is sponsored by Maeystown St. John UCC and Zion UCC, St. Joe. Proceeds benefit Hoyleton Youth & Family Services.

What's Happening in Illinois South Conference

Vacation Bible School Schedule

May 30 - June 2; Waterloo St. Paul UCC; *Cokesbury Hero Hotline*.

June 5-7 from 6 - 8 pm; June 8 from 6 pm - 7 pm; Trenton St. John UCC with co-host First United Methodist Church; *Food Truck Party-On a Roll with God*.

June 5-9; Okawville St. Peter's UCC; *Hero Hotline*.

June 5-9 from 9 am - 12 pm; Highland Evangelical UCC; *Stellar:Shine Jesus' Light*.

June 12-15; Dupo Christ UCC; *Hero Hotline*.

June 13, 14, 15 from 5:30 pm - 8 pm; Plum Hill St. John UCC with co-host Nashville St. Paul UCC; *Dinosaurs*.

June 19-23 from 8:45 am - 12 pm; Mascoutah St. John UCC; *Stellar:Shine Jesus' Light*.

June 21-29; Granite City St. John UCC; *Food Truck Party-On a Roll with God*.

July 10-14 from 9 am - 12 pm; Collinsville St. John UCC; Cost is \$15/person; *Hero Hotline*.

July 10-14; Red Bud St. Peter UCCC; *Hero Hotline*.

July 24-28 from 9 am - 11 am; New Baden Zion UCC; *Food Truck Party-On a Roll with God*.

August 6, 13, 20, 27, and September 3 at 9:15 am; Alhambra Salem UCC; *Food Truck Party-On a Roll with God*.



JOURNEY THROUGH THE HOLY LAND **SPONSORED BY: ST. JOHN'S MIDWAY & GLOBUS TRAVEL**

From visiting the site of the first miracle in Cana to seeing the room of the Last Supper on Mount Zion, this faith-based journey will fuel your faith & feed your soul.

Trip dates: February 26th through March 5th, 2024

Space is available, but don't delay!

Contact the church at 618-377-9288 or stjohnsmidway@yahoo.com for more info.

Boundary Awareness Training

For those pastors who are due for **Boundary Training** this year, the next session for both active and retired will be **on Tuesday, May 16 from 8:30 am - Noon**. Contact Debbie at dkesner@iscucc.org to register and get the zoom meeting info. Cost: \$20 for retired pastors, \$25 for active pastors, \$25 for non-ISC retired pastors, and \$30 for non-ISC active pastors.

Region 2

Dupo Christ UCC will hold its All-You-Can-Eat Pancake & Sausage Breakfast on Easter Sunday, April 9 from 7:30 am – 9:30 am. Adults - \$8; Children 12 yrs. & under - \$3. All are welcome.

Dupo Christ UCC will hold its Wurstmarkt on Sat, May 20 from 11 am to 3 pm while supplies last. Menu is pork sausage, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, corn, applesauce, and cake. Carry-out or dine-in. Outdoor seating available. Adults \$13 per plate; Children 5 - 11 years \$6 per plate.

Region 3

On April 29th, St. John UCC in Granite City will host a FREE concert of Contemporary Christian music featuring the band "Unbroken." The concert will start at 6 pm and will be preceded by a casual dinner at 4:30 pm. The cost for the dinner is \$15.00; reservations are required and need to be made through our church office (618-877-6060) no later than Monday, April 24. Payment is required at the time the reservation is made. You do NOT need to attend the dinner in order to attend the concert. Both the dinner and concert will be held at Granite City St. John UCC. Contact 618-877-6060 or stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com.

Region 5

Troy Friedens UCC will host its Coffee & Dessert Speaker Series on the Third Thursday of the Month at 7:00 pm. Speakers scheduled are:

April 20 "Lessons from the Master Gardeners"

Speakers: Bob and Judy Smejkal

May 18 "The 60s Chicks Show Choir"

Region 8

Mascoutah St. John UCC's Everfaithful Guild will hold its 42nd Annual Quilt Show on Saturday, April 15 at 9 am. Bake sale. "Trash to Treasures" white elephant booth.

Region 9 - O'Fallon UCC invites everyone to their 7 pm Good Friday service on April 7. There will be much music by professional cellist, Marta Simidchieva, as well as a handbell choir and chancel choir. All are welcome.

Belleville Trinity UCC Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday 6:00 pm potluck and service

Good Friday 7:00 pm Tenebrae service with choir performance and story by Mary, Mother of Jesus.

Easter Saturday 9:00 Easter for Kids

Easter Sunday 7:00 am Sunrise service and 9:30 am worship service.

Job Opportunities

Looking for a Part-time job? Retired? Looking for some way to use your skills 9-12 hours a week and get paid for it? Perhaps you're a college student needing a flexible job to help finance gas in your car or pizza in your tummy? St John UCC in Fairview Heights seeks a part time Church Secretary. Preferably, someone who is familiar with the life of a church. Must be comfortable using a computer and familiar with Word and Excel. A full job description will be provided at the interview. 9 -12 hours weekly depending on the needs of the church. Contact the Church office 618-397-6323 (leave a message) or pastor at 618-660-8894 or email stjohnuccfairview@gmail.com.

St. John United Church of Christ in Granite City, Illinois is seeking a passionate, part-time Director of Music able to consistently provide a holy experience for our congregation and to reach new people through live music at worship services. Our Director of Music/Musician will provide live music throughout the year along with potentially offering leadership for our choir. Our new director must have proficiency in playing piano and/or organ. To support you, both our state-of-the-art Allen Bravura digital organ and our grand piano were recently installed in the sanctuary, along with a new top-of-the-line sound system. Our worship services are made more vibrant and motivational through music, and we rely on our Director of Music to lead the way.

This part-time position will include Sunday morning worship, occasional special services, and potential rehearsals with our choir. This position's expected gross salary range is \$12,000-\$15,000. In Christ we live, celebrate and serve. Our church's mission statement embodies who we are: Empowered by the Holy Spirit, living our faith in Jesus Christ, and celebrating the promises of God, we welcome all to unite in loving and serving God. We hope you are called to be part of our historic church. Candidates may apply by submitting a resume and references to stjohnucc2901gc@yahoo.com.

Pinckneyville St. Paul UCC is in search for a Part-time Music Leader. This position requires excellent people skills in working with the Council, Pastor, Secretary, committees, and Sunday school teachers. Their music skills include the ability to play a Wicks two-manual pipe organ with pedals and piano. Good vocal skills are a plus but not required. The church does not have a choir but occasionally has special instrumentalists and vocalists. Church services are currently 10 am - 11 am on Sundays. Special services include Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and two Easter services. Contact the church secretary at 618-357-8075.

CONTACT US - YOUR OCWM MONIES AT WORK

Please call (618-654-2125) before coming to the Conference Office or make an appointment with a staff member using the emails below.

For the work of Conference teams and committees or for financial matters (in terms of your church's giving to the Conference or OCWM), contact Debbie Kesner at dkesner@iscucc.org.

For communicating within the Conference, the Conference website, Facebook page or Weekly Connection, contact Lynnette Schuepbach at lschuepbach@iscucc.org.
For DuBois Center Executive Director, contact Noah McCarn at director@DuBoisCenter.org.
For DuBois Center program information, contact Rylee Bernhardt at 618-787-2202 or program@DuBoisCenter.org.
For DuBois Center registration for upcoming events and camp sessions or ISC program registrations, contact Julie Riechmann at 618-357-1809 or jriechmann@iscucc.org.
For Rev. Shana Johnson, ISC Conference Minister, contact her at sjohnson@iscucc.org or 618-882-8247.

Inclusivity Statement for DuBois Center and Illinois South Conference of the UCC

Because we affirm the value of all God's people, the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, ability, national origin, religious background, sexual orientation, or gender identity. To the extent possible, we endeavor to accommodate those with a variety of physical, mental, emotional, medical, or dietary needs.

[Illinois South Conference](#) [Back Bay Mission](#) [CHHSM](#) [Deaconess Foundation](#)

[Deaconess Nurse Ministry](#) [DuBois Center](#) [Ecuador Partnership](#)

[Eden Theological Seminary](#) [Emmaus Homes](#) [Hitz Memorial Home](#)

[Hoyleton Youth & Family](#) [LIFE Program](#) [Unleashing Potential](#)

[Pension Board-UCC](#) [St. John's Community Care](#) [UCC Insurance Board](#)

[Uplands Village](#) [UCC Campus Ministry](#) [Uni-Pres Kindercottage](#) [UCC Newsletter](#)

